

# Wedding Checklist

By Sherry M. Lewis

- One Year Before
  - Fall in love!
  - Make a budget.
  - Determine elements like theme, tone, colors, etc.
  - Determine the kind of venue you and your partner would like for your wedding Find a venue.
  - Set the date and time.
  - Book your venues, both ceremony and reception sites.
  - Take photos for engagement announcement.
  - Announce your engagement via a website, blog, newspaper, post, email, etc.
  - Plan an engagement party.
  - Hire a wedding planner or consultant.
  - Find and book someone to perform your wedding ceremony.
  - Research online and buy bridal magazines to get inspiration.
- Nine Months Before
  - Make a guest list.
  - Send 'Save the Date' notices to guests.
  - Choose members of the wedding party (maid of honor, best man, bridesmaids, ushers, ring bearer, flower girl, etc.)
  - Discuss where your honeymoon will be, begin researching and set a budget.
  - Book your honeymoon transportation and accommodation Find Bed & Breakfasts.
  - Find a caterer for food and drinks Go for a few tastings.
  - Find a wedding cake maker and be sure to go for tastings!
  - Find a florist and begin choosing flowers (for decoration, bouquets, corsages, boutonnieres, flower girls, etc.)
  - Find a photographer and/or videographer.
  - Start shopping for your wedding dress and accessories (jewelry, shoes, veil, gloves, hats, etc ).
  - Choose and order decorations (centerpieces, balloons, etc ). Find suppliers.

- Join a gym, take fitness classes or begin a sport Get in shape for all those photos!
- Six Months Before
  - Register for gifts.
  - Choose and order your invitations.
  - Find a DJ or musician(s).
  - Order your wedding gown and schedule fittings.
  - Order your wedding cake.
  - If traveling abroad for your honeymoon, make sure passports, visas and inoculations are up to date.
  - Check to see if you'll need rental equipment such as tables, chairs, glassware, dishes, linens, tents, etc.
  - Book accommodation for the wedding night (for yourselves plus those traveling).
  - Choose menswear for groom and ushers Purchase or arrange rentals.
  - Shop for and order your bridesmaids dresses.
  - Plan your rehearsal dinner including location, date, time, menu, guest list, etc.
  - Arrange transportation to and from the wedding, perhaps something special like a limo, horse and carriage, etc?
  - Go shopping for wedding rings.
  - Make your own or buy wedding favors.
  - Purchase wedding accessories (jewelry, shoes, veil, gloves, hats, etc ).
  - Be sure parents have selected their wedding attire.
- Three Months Before
  - Send out the wedding invitations.
  - Review the day's events with your officiant who will perform the ceremony.
  - Meet with your photographer and/or videographer to discuss your wishes and needs.
  - Meet with your DJ or musician(s) to discuss song selections.
  - Finalize the menu with your caterer.
  - Investigate what is required for a marriage license (blood tests, documents, etc ).
  - If you are changing your name, begin this process now.

- Check that documents are in order (legal, insurance, financial, medical, and religious).
- Finalize details for rehearsal dinner.
- Buy wedding rings.
- Attend your bridal shower.
- Schedule another wedding gown fitting.
- If you are writing your own wedding vows, begin doing so now.
- Research hairstyles and makeup Find and book beauty services.
- Buy gifts for the wedding party and your fiance.
- Keep a running tally of RSVPs from the invites.
- Take dancing lessons.
- One Month Before
  - Call all of your service providers and finalize any loose ends.
  - Check in with your bridal party and parents to make final arrangements.
  - Make arrangements for legal documents, appointments with government offices, etc.
  - Have your final fitting for your wedding gown.
  - Determine seating arrangements and make place cards.
  - Schedule a rehearsal session with your hair stylist and makeup artist.
  - Make wedding programs.
  - Pick up wedding rings.
  - If you are moving in together, find a moving company.
  - Choose a song for your first dance as husband and wife.
  - Write thank you notes as gifts are received.
- A Few Days Before
  - Remember that even if things don't go according to plan, the day will still be memorable.
  - Attend your party (bachelor/stag, bachelorette/hen).
  - Have your rehearsal dinner.
  - If you aren't doing this on your wedding day, go sign legal documents beforehand.
  - Collect your wedding gown.
  - Stage a ceremony rehearsal and practice your vows.
  - Make sure your maid of honor and best man have their toasts prepared.

- Get travel insurance for your honeymoon.
- Make arrangements for when you are out of town on your honeymoon-  
Find a pet sitter, freeze newspaper subscriptions, etc.
- Pack for your honeymoon.
- Make preparations for fees due on wedding day.
- Make arrangements to return rented items (groom's attire, equipment, etc.)
- Treat yourself to a manicure and pedicure Find beauty services.
- Visit a tanning salon.
- Exchange gifts with your fiance.
- After the Wedding
  - Enjoy your honeymoon!
  - Send thank you notes.
  - Ensure paperwork went through for your name change.
  - Preserve your wedding gown.
  - Receive photo album and/or video from your photographer and/or videographer.
  - Order and send photos to your family and/or friends.
  - Review your insurance policies and finances Find and meet with a financial advisor to discuss your options as a couple.
  - Cherish your partner, now and always!